

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 03870

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SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES' VISIT TO

BRAZIL JANUARY 28-30

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO BRAZIL JANUARY 28-30 WAS NOT VERY PRODUCTIVE. NO NEW AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED, AND GOF STILL BEWILDERED BY BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR INTENTIONS. PRESIDENT GEISEL IS NOW SCHEDULED MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE BEGINNING APRIL 28. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES, ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL TRADE RAYMOND BARRE, MADE OFFICIAL VISIT TO BRAZIL JANUARY 28-30. JACQUES DE FOLIN, FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR FOR THE AMERICAS, GAVE US THE FOLLOWING READ-OUT OF THE VISIT.

2. POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN AZEREDO AND SAUVAGNARGUES: IN THE TOUR D'HORIZON, THERE WERE ONLY TWO SUBJECTS OF NONAGREEMENT--ANGOLA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. ON ANGOLA, SAUVAGNARGUES LEANED HEAVILY ON AZEREDO WITH RESPECT TO BRAZIL'S PRESENCE IN LUANDA AND ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE MPLA. AZEREDO STOOD HIS GROUND AND SAID

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BRAZIL'S INTERESTS REQUIRED A PRESENCE IN LUANDA. AZEREDO ALSO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE MPLA IS NATIONALISTIC AND NOT COMMUNISTIC, AND WILL REMAIN FREE OF SOVIET DOMINATION. BRAZILIANS ALSO CLAIMED TO HAVE AN INDICATION, ACCORDING TO DE FOLIN, THAT MPLA IS DETERMINED TO REFUSE SOVIETS BASE RIGHTS IN ANGOLA. IN ANY EVENT, DE FOLIN SAID THERE WAS REAL DISAGREEMENT IN ANGOLA.

3. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, SAUVAGNARGUES CRITICIZED THE BRAZILIAN VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE LINK BETWEEN ZIONISM AND RACISM. AZEREDO TOLD SAUVAGNARGUES THAT THE GOB DOES NOT EQUATE THE TWO, BUT VOTED FOR THE RESOLUTION FOR TACTICAL REASONS.

4. ECONOMIC RELATIONS: NO AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED BECAUSE THE FRENCH DO NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO PLAY IN THE SAME BALL PARK AS THE BRAZILIANS. THE FRENCH HAVE ALLOCATED THE EQUIVALENT OF \$25 MILLION FOR EXPORT CREDITS WHICH COULD BE PYRAMIDED TO \$100 MILLION MIXED WITH PRIVATE CREDITS, BUT THIS IS CHICKEN FEED AS FAR AS BRAZILIAN REQUIREMENTS ARE CONCERNED. THE FRENCH MAY END UP WITH A CONTRACT TO SUPPLY RAILWAY CARS TO THE RIO SUBURBAN COMMUTER SYSTEM, BUT EVEN THAT IS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION.

5. NUCLEAR: THIS SUBJECT WAS A CAUSE FOR SOME ANNOYANCE ON THE PART OF THE FRENCH. THE BRAZILIANS WANTED TO SIGN A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT, INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR SAFEGUARDS, BUT WITH NO SUBSTANCE WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS. THE FRENCH ARE INTERESTED IN EXPLORATION FOR URANIUM ORE, AND IN URANIUM ENRICHMENT IN BRAZIL. THE BRAZILIANS SAID THEY WANTED TO HAVE A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FIRST. THE GOF REJECTED THIS PRIOR TO THE VISIT, AND NUCLEAR SUBJECTS WERE THEREFORE NOT ON THE AGENDA.

6. FRENCH POLITICAL DIRECTOR DE LABOULAYE, HOWEVER, DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT UNOFFICIALLY WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. BUT THESE CONFIDENTIAL

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DISCUSSIONS LED NOWHERE BEYOND THE ORIGINAL POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES. IT IS EXPECTED, HOWEVER, THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL CONTINUE AT THE OFFICE DIRECTOR LEVEL. THE FRENCH SAY THEY ARE BEWILDERED AT THE BRAZILIANS' REFUSAL TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC NUCLEAR PROJECTS.

7. COMMENT: THE EXPERIENCE ILLUSTRATES ONCE AGAIN THE RELATIVELY LOW PRIORITY FRANCE ASSIGNS TO LATIN AMERICA.

IT'S NOT THAT FRANCE DOES NOT WANT TO DEEPEN ITS RELATIONSHIPS IN THE REGION. IT IS A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES, WITH THE BULK OF FRANCE'S RESOURCES DEVOTED TO PENETRATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST.
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